



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/985,851	11/06/2001	Takeshi Nishiwaki	Q66613	4464

7590 03/11/2005

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/985,851

Applicant(s)

NISHIWAKI ET AL.

Examiner

James S McClellan

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11,12 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/6/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 11/6/01 has been considered as indicated by the signed copy of PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0087522 A1 (MacGregor) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,568,390 (Hirota).

Regarding **claim 1**, MacGregor discloses a sales supporting system associated with a navigation system to provide store information, said sale system comprising: store information transmitting means for transmitting store information (vendor server 312, see Figure 3) including information on at least goods and prices that stores are dealing in (see paragraph 0013), and positions of the stores (see paragraph 0013); store listing means (via search engine server 308; see Figure 3) for listing stores that deal in goods for desired purchase according to inputs of the purchasers based on the store information transmitted by said store information transmitting means (see paragraph 0014); priority setting means for calculating priority level judging

Art Unit: 3627

parameters P from prices and travel distance (see paragraph 0014); means for notifying the purchasers of store information based on the set priority (via user terminal 304); [claim 6] information transmitting means transmits store information through a server (312) that is brought into connection with a general-purpose data communication system (server 308); and [claim 8] said store listing means (308) comprises store information storage means (database 320; see Figure 3) for storing the store information transmitted from said store information transmitting means (312), and said store listing means (308) lists stores that are dealing in goods for desired purchases from the store information stored in said store information storage means (320).

MacGregor et al. fails to explicitly disclose means for guiding routes to destinations and means for calculating costs necessary for movements to the destinations.

Hirota et al. teaches the use of means for guiding routes to destinations and means for calculating costs necessary for movements to the destinations (see column 12, lines 34-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor et al. with the travel cost navigation system taught by Hirota et al., because incorporating travel costs helps a user determine the best purchasing decision, wherein reducing overall costs of purchasing a product.

Regarding **claim 2**, MacGregor et al. discloses all the claimed elements as set forth above for claim 1. MacGregor et al. fails to explicitly disclose means for guiding routes to destinations and means for calculating time necessary for movements to the destinations.

Hirota et al. teaches the use of means for guiding routes to destinations and means for calculating time necessary for movements to the destinations (see column 12, lines 34-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor et al. with the travel time navigation system taught by Hirota et al., because incorporating travel time helps a user determine the best purchasing decision, wherein reducing overall time of purchasing a product.

Claims 17 and 18 are directed to methods of supporting sales as analyzed above in detail for system claims 1 and 2. Method claims 17 and 18 are rejected based upon the same analysis used to rejection system claims 1 and 2.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in view of Hirota as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,847,935 (Solomon).

Regarding **claim 5**, the combination of MacGregor et al. and Hirota et al. fail to explicitly disclose setting prices based on positions of the users.

Solomon teaches the use of setting prices based on user locations (rebates based location; see column 8, lines 65-68).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor/Hirota with user location based pricing as taught by Solomon, because users are willing to pay varying prices dependent on the ease of receiving the goods, wherein increasing the sellers profits.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in view of Hirota as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,776 (Blumberg).

Art Unit: 3627

Regarding **claim 7**, the combination of MacGregor et al. and Hirota et al. fail to explicitly disclose the use of a narrow area communication apparatus that is provided on a movement route in the vicinity of the store.

Blumberg teaches the use of a narrow area communication apparatus that is provided on a movement route in the vicinity of the store (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor/Hirota narrow area communication apparatus that is provided on a movement route in the vicinity of the store as taught by Blumberg, because said communication apparatus allows close proximity advertising, wherein targeting customers most likely to physically visit a store.

6. Claims 9, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in view of Hirota as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. US 2001/0018673 A1 (Goldband)

Regarding **claims 9, 10, and 16** the combination of MacGregor et al. and Hirota et al. fail to explicitly disclose the use of a limited time offer.

Goldband teaches the use of a limited time offer (see Abstract)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor/Hirota a limited time offer taught Goldband, because limited time offers encourage customers to more quickly purchase goods, wherein helping the seller reduce undesired inventory.

Art Unit: 3627

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in view of Hirota as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding **claim 13**, the combination of MacGregor et al. and Hirota et al. fail to explicitly disclose the use of saving new information over old information, wherein deleting the old information.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that is old and well known to save new information over old information, wherein deleting the old information.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor/Hirota saving information as is well known in the art, because replacing old data with new data reduces the overall size of memory required by a seller.

8. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in view of Hirota as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0016747 A1 (Razumov)

Regarding **claim 15**, the combination of MacGregor et al. and Hirota et al. fail to explicitly disclose the use of prepaying for goods.

Razumov teaches the use of prepaying for goods.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify MacGregor/Hirota with prepaid goods as taught by Razumov, because allowing a customer to prepay for goods is beneficial to the seller because the seller is guaranteed revenue even before exchanging the goods.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 3, 4, and 19 allowed.
10. Claims 11, 12, and 14 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Poppen is cited of interest for disclosing a cost zones.

Liaw et al. is cited of interest for disclosing incremental route calculation.

DeGraaf is cited of interest for disclosing a navigation system with user definable cost values.

Neifeld is cited of interest for disclosing a cross-retail store individualized price differential network system.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Art Unit: 3627

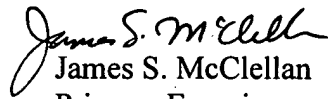
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (Official communications) or
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


James S. McClellan
Primary Examiner
A.U. 3627

jsm
March 7, 2005